

The Impact of COVID-19 on Travel Behavior in the Triangle Region

To support transportation planning in the Triangle, travel behavior survey data is collected every other year covering the entire region. This recurring survey effort started in 2016 and continued in 2018. Data collection was delayed from the fall of 2020 to the spring of 2021 due to COVID-19.†

During the pandemic, travel behavior changed significantly including how often, how far, which mode, why and when people travel. The data below represents 2021 survey results compared with 2018 survey results.

Overall Travel Markets

Travel in the region decreased during the pandemic.

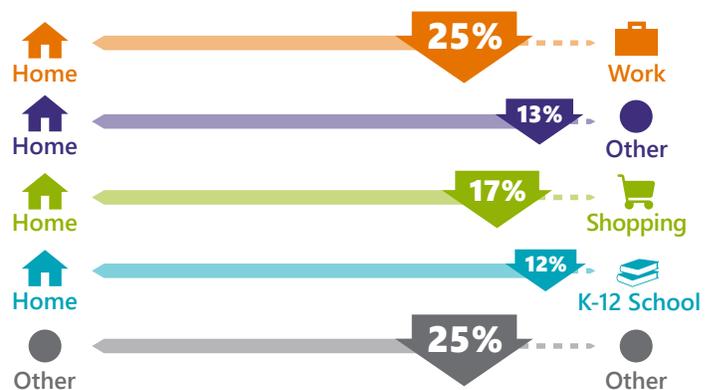
Total person trips declined by:



Total person miles traveled declined by:

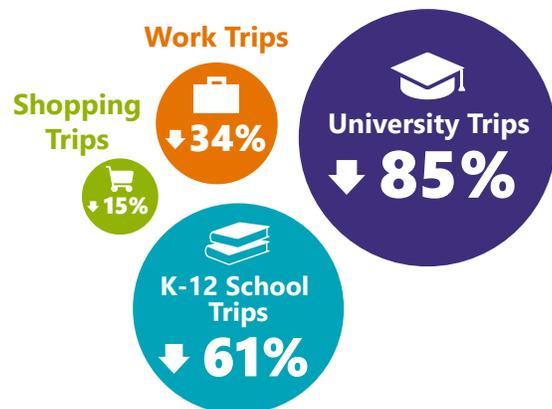


Average travel distances by reason declined by:



Reason for Travel

The pandemic impacted the reasons why we travel. The number of trips went down by:



Mode of Travel

How we traveled during the pandemic was impacted. The trips made by these modes declined by:



† Surveys were completed in Mar-Apr, 2016, Oct-Nov, 2018 and Feb-Mar, 2021. Surveyed households were located all over the 10-county Triangle region including Durham, Orange, Wake, Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Nash and Person counties.

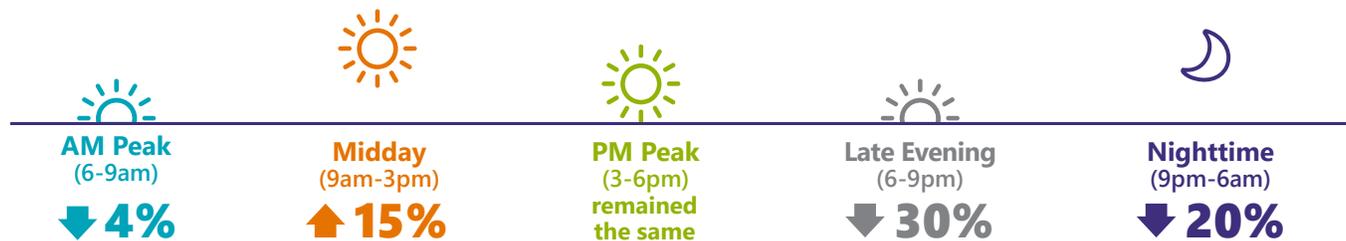
Commuting Behavior *

The percentage of 2021 travel survey participants who reported the following commuting patterns in the past, present and anticipated future:

	 Work Only Outside the Home	 Both	 Work Only from the Home
Pre-COVID	74%	12%	14%
During COVID	45%	18%	37%
Anticipated Post-COVID	56%	25%	19%

Daily Travel Patterns

The pandemic impacted daily travel patterns. The percentage of trips made during these time periods changed by:



Observations by Age Group

Trip making by seniors and children were most impacted as compared to other age categories.



What Stayed the Same

DEMOGRAPHICS

Household demographics in the Triangle have remained fairly stable between 2016 and 2021, including **household size, number of drivers, number of workers per household and vehicle ownership.**

REASON FOR TRAVEL

Other trips (home to other and other to other trips) are consistently the main reason for travel (**70%**) as compared to work, school, university and shopping trips.

TRAVEL MODE

The **automobile is still the dominant mode** across all survey years (**80+%**), with walk/bike trips being the second most frequent mode (10+%).



*Data for this comes only from the 2021 survey results. Note that pre- and during-COVID are reported actual behavior and post-COVID is anticipated behavior.